

Prayer for Illumination

Lord,

Your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.

As the Scriptures are read and proclaimed, give us ears to hear and hearts ready to respond.

Teach us your ways and give us understanding.

Help us discern what is happening around us and recognize where you are calling us to faithful action.

May your Word awaken us, challenge us, encourage us, and transform us.

And may we not simply hear your Word but live it.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

First Reading: 1 Chronicles 12:32

³² from Issachar, men who understood the times and knew what Israel should do—200 chiefs, with all their relatives under their command;

Second Reading: Psalm 119:33-40

**³³ Teach me, Lord, the way of your decrees,
that I may follow it to the end.^[a]**

**³⁴ Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law
and obey it with all my heart.**

**³⁵ Direct me in the path of your commands,
for there I find delight.**

**³⁶ Turn my heart toward your statutes
and not toward selfish gain.**

**³⁷ Turn my eyes away from worthless things;
preserve my life according to your word. [\[b\]](#)**

**³⁸ Fulfill your promise to your servant,
so that you may be feared.**

**³⁹ Take away the disgrace I dread,
for your laws are good.**

**⁴⁰ How I long for your precepts!
In your righteousness preserve my life.**

Third Reading: Romans 13:8-14

Love Fulfills the Law

**⁸ Let no debt remain outstanding, except the
continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves
others has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments,**

“You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,”^[a] and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”^[b] ¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

The Day Is Near

¹¹ And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us

behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. ¹⁴ Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.[\[c\]](#)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.